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FIRST TORPEDOES MADE HERE AND USED IN THE JAMES RIVER

Despite the Study of This Method of Warfare, More Was Accomplished by Confederacy Than Has Been Accomplished for Many Years Since.



CAPTAIN RICHARD L. MAURY.

Colonel Richard L. MAURY, a son of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, has written for The Times-Dispatch an extremely interesting article on the invention and use of torpedoes, in which he is the pioneer, and to the perfection of which he himself and other brave naval officers of the Confederacy devoted themselves with all the abandonment which a devotion to a cause for the cause's sake can evoke.

The wonderful achievements of Japan, with her ironclad rams and torpedoes, should be specially interesting to your readers, because of the fact that these mighty engines of modern war, as successful appliances, had their origin in Virginia, were designed in Richmond and were first successfully used in the waters of James River.

In 1865 the Secretary of the United States navy reported to Congress that the navy had lost more ships during the war from Confederate torpedoes than from all other causes combined.

The first ironclad ram in actual conflict was the Imperial Virginia, victoriously fought in Virginia waters, according to the design of Lieutenant John Mercer Brooke, a Virginian, born near Fredericksburg, now an honored professor at the Virginia Military Institute.

WERE MADE HERE. Torpedoes as a successful weapon in actual war were introduced into the Confederate navy by Captain Matthew F. Maury, also of Fredericksburg, and first placed by him in the James river.

There was much prejudice against or lack of appreciation of this undeveloped Confederate authorities, who considered it ineffectual and unlawful warfare, but Captain Maury, undeterred by a lack of official support and opposition of many friends, proceeded at once to demonstrate its sufficiency as best he could.

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Urbana Wine Co., Urbana, N. Y., Sole Makers.

ger by a string leading to the operator hidden on the bank. General Hains, chief of the army torpedo bureau, advised the best use of the torpedo was to set upon the bow of a boat, to be fired by impact upon the side of the vessel attacked; and Dr. St. Julien her design upon the torpedo with Captain Maury, designed and constructed at his own expense, with great success, a torpedo called a "David," rigged with a spar torpedo, with which at Charleston, Lieutenant Glassel struck and permanently disabled the new ironclad, the most powerful vessel then afloat.

And John Maxwell, of Richmond, with unflinching intrepidity, with his own hands handed a clock torpedo aboard a vessel at City Point, which blew her to pieces in a few moments, killing many and spreading consternation all around.

By the fall of 1862 the importance of Captain Maury's work and his capabilities had become so highly appreciated that it was deemed best that he should go to England, that he might have every opportunity for the development and improvement afforded by the perfection of laboratories and facilities for experiment and construction.

His trial experiments to explode under water were made with minute charges of powder and submerged in an ordinary wash tub in his chamber at the house of his cousin, Robert L. Maury, on Clay street, and the tank for actual use, with their triggers for explosion and other mechanical appliances for service, were made by Talbot and Son, on Cary street, under their ready and intelligent direction.

In the early summer of 1863 the Secretary of the Navy and the chairman of the Naval Committee of Congress and others, were invited to witness an explosion in James River at Rockett's. The torpedo was a small piece of powder, weighted to sink, fitted with a trigger to explode by percussion, to be fired, when in place, with a lanyard. The Patrick Henry gig was borrowed; Captain Maury and the writer got aboard with the torpedo, and were rowed to the middle of the channel just opposite where the wharf of the James River Steamboat Company now is, whereon the spectator stood.

MINED THE RIVER. In a month or two he had mined the channel of the river just opposite Chaffin's Bluff, with fixed torpedoes to be exploded by contact, having then no insulated wire with which to explode electrically, and during that summer and fall several attempts with the torpedoes were made against the Federal squadron at Fortress Monroe, one of which he personally directed (July, 1861); another (October, 1861), by one of his skillful associates, Lieutenant Robert D. Minor, also of Fredericksburg.

He thus describes them: "These torpedoes were in pairs, connected together by a span 500 feet long. The span was floated on the surface by corks, and the torpedo barrels, containing 20 pounds of powder, also floated at the depth of twenty feet, empty barrelog, painted lead color, so as not really to be seen, serving for the purpose.

The span was connected with a trigger in the head of each barrel, so set and arranged that when the torpedo, being let go in a tide way under the bows and athwart the hawsse had fouled, they would be drifted alongside, and in so drifting tauten the span, and so set off the fuse, which was driven precisely as a ten seconds shot fuse, only it was calculated to burn fifty-four seconds, because it could not be known exactly in which part of the sweep along tide the strain would be sufficient to set off the trigger.

GREW IN FAVOR. To obtain insulated wire an agent was sent to New York in secret, but failed, and as there was neither wire factory or insulating material in the South, the difficulties of preparing electrical torpedoes to which he attached the greatest importance and greatly preferred, seemed insuperable, until by a remarkable coincidence, in the following spring, it happened that the enemy attempting to lay a cable across Chesapeake Bay, at Fortress Monroe were forced to abandon the attempt and left the wire to the mercy of the waves, which cast it up on the beach near Norfolk, where by the kindness of a friend, it was secured for Captain Maury's use.

"had torpedo on the brain." The destruction of the enemy's vessels increased so rapidly, in the next three weeks of the war, that ten were destroyed, that they were compelled to adopt our system, although at first denouncing it as barbarous and heathenish.

A Barrel's a Barrel for a That. It is said that a Floydy county distiller, who has license to sell liquor, has been arrested for selling whisky when he wants to let a thirsty fellow

....Book 1 on Dyspepsia. ....Book 2 on the Heart. ....Book 3 on the Kidneys. ....Book 4 for Women. ....Book 5 for Men (sealed). ....Book 6 on Rheumatism. Send me the book checked above. Sign here \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ To Dr. Shoop, Pox 6258, Racine, Wis.



Cut This Out and Know How to Get Well

That is all. Send no money. Simply sign above. Tell me the book you need. I will arrange with a druggist near you for six bottles of

Dr. Shoop's Restorative

Take it a month at my risk. If it succeeds the cost to you is \$5.50. If it fails the druggist will bill the cost to me. And I leave the decision to you.

Don't Wait Until You Are Worse

Taken in time, the suffering of this little one would have been prevented. Her mother writes me: "Two years ago my little girl was sick continuously for six months. We tried many doctors, and they failed, yet it took only two bottles of your remedy to cure her, and she has remained cured. You can tell others of this cure if you so desire."

"This is a pity she did not first write me, before the case was dangerous. The wife of Omer Andrus, of Bayou Chicot, La., had been sick for 20 years. For 8 years could do practically no work. He writes: "When she first started taking the Restorative she barely weighed 50 pounds; now she weighs 135, and is able easily to do all her house work."

"I spent \$250.00 for other medicines, and the \$2.00 I have spent with you have done me more good than all the rest." Both money and suffering might have been saved. These letters—dozens of them—come every day to me.

How much serious illness the Restorative has prevented. I have no means of knowing, for the slightly ill and the indisposed already get a bottle or two of their druggist, are cured; and I never hear from them. But of 600,000 sick ones—seriously sick, mind you—who asked for my guarantee, 39 out of each 40 have paid. Paid because they got well.

If I can succeed in curing like these—fall but one time in 40, in diseases deep-seated and chronic—isn't it certain I can always cure the slightly ill? Nelson Page and Hon. Harry St. George Tucker, of Washington, and Hon. James Lindsay Gordon and Dr. Robert Underwood Johnson, associate editor of the Century Magazine, both of New York.

Why The Restorative Succeeds

You may oil and rub, adjust and repair a weak engine. It will never be stronger nor do its work better, without steam. More power—more steam is necessary.

And so with the vital organs. Doctor them as you will. That's more repairing. Permanent cures never come save through treating the nerves that operate those organs.

After almost a lifetime of labor—of study at bedside and research in hospitals—I made this discovery. I found a way to treat, not the organs themselves, but the nerves—the inside nerves—that operate those organs and gives them power and strength and health. That discovery has shown me the way to cure.

I know the remedy. I never forget the study, all the research, the trials and tests that perfected it. I have watched its action year after year in cases difficult, discouraging. Time after time I have seen it bring back health to those poor ones whom hope had almost deserted. I know what it will do.

My only problem is to convince you. And so I make my offer. And the bare fact that I make such an offer ought to convince you that I know how to cure. Please read it again. It means exactly what I say. No catch—no misleading phrases in it. Simply this—you take the medicine and I will take the risk.

And you—not I—decide if you are to pay. the University of Virginia, stating that there were four members of Phi Beta Kappa in the faculty of that institution. In addition to the name of Professor James A. Harrison, the names of Professors Francis H. Smith, Richard H. Wilson and John W. Mallet should be included in the list.

All You Need To Do

Simply sign the above—that is all. Ask for the book you need. The offer I make is broad—is liberal. The way is easy—is simple. The Restorative is certain. But do not misunderstand me.

This is not free treatment, with nothing ever to pay. Such an offer would be misleading—would be little the physician who made it. But I believe in a sick one's honesty—his gratitude. That when he is cured he will pay the cost of the treatment—and gladly.

I make this offer so that those who might doubt, may learn at my risk.

Tell it, please, to a friend who is sick. Or send me his name. That's but a trifle to ask—a minute's time—a postal. He is your friend. You can help him. My way may be his only way to get well.

I, a stranger, offer to do all this. Won't you, his friend, his neighbor, simply write?

He will learn from my book a way to get well. Perhaps, as I say, the only way for him. His case may be serious—hopeless almost. Other physicians—other specialists, may have failed. The matter is urgent, then.

Write me a postal or sign above to-day. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 6258, Racine, Wis.

A MERRY GOLDEN WEDDING IN SOUTH MECKLENBURG



(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) SOUTH GILL, VA., Feb. 13.—Mr. P. F. Smith and his worthy wife celebrated their golden wedding at the family homestead near Whitte's Mills, in the lower end of Mecklenburg county, January 30th last.

The occasion was a joyful one, and celebrated with the descendants of several generations surrounding the aged, but happy lovers. Mr. P. F. Smith was born January 14, 1827, near Whitte's Mills, Mecklenburg county, Va. He was married January 31, 1834, to Miss Mary A. Johnson, of Nottoway county Va., who was born near Blackstone July 2, 1832. They raised

five children, three girls and two boys, all married. With their husbands, wives and children, fifteen in number, all attended the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the aged couple.

It was a little remarkable that almost in midwinter, with eight inches of snow on the ground, all living some distance off, that every child and grandchild should be present. The presents were profuse and varied, many in coin, as it is written to obtain any appropriate for such an occasion in the backyard of Southside Virginia.

The table was worthy of a first marriage, groaning under the delicacies of the season, interspersed with oysters and eucupernong wine, made by the celebrants. He had present a photographer to take the group of the family. He so located an ancient cedar for background, and all were placed in position out in the snow.

The family, twenty-eight in number, and two spectators, composed the group of thirty. The day passed off pleasantly with the young, and the couple that had been married fifty years seemed to lay all cares aside and were as happy as any in the group.

Credit is Your Daily Helper.

The charge account in the average dry goods store is a source of convenience for the wealthy shopper. We have just as many people of wealth benefiting by our charge system as any other first-class establishment. We couldn't figure, though, why the wage-earners should be discriminated against—denied privileges on one hand that were given to a select few on the other, simply because one lacked a fat bank account and the other didn't. We draw no such distinction. We have found in our business career that honesty is as quick a pay to bank on as any other asset. Therefore, don't hesitate in ordering an account on our books arranged for in your name. If weekly or monthly payments will help you in your calculations, it's all the same to us.

Remember, you buy everything at cash prices. NEW ARRIVAL Spring Dress Goods NOW READY FOR INSPECTION. NEW STYLES IN 1904 PERCALES.

Julius Sycle & Sons.

Advertisement for Alpha Cement Steel Roofing and Tin Plate, featuring the 'BE QUICK!' logo and the name Baldwin & Brown, Opposite Old Market.

PHI BETA KAPPA REUNION HERE

Committee Soon to Announce Interesting Programme—Noted Men Coming From Distance.

The local committee appointed to arrange for the celebration of the one hundred and Twenty-seventh anniversary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society will announce in a few days the date of the celebration and the full programme which is to be carried out. Dr. W. L. Pustelka and Mr. Plummer F. Jones, the two members of the committee here, have been endeavoring to make the arrangements so as to insure the attendance of every member of the society in Virginia. Beside being a general reunion and introduction inter se of the Virginia Phi Beta Kappas, the convention will initiate some men of national reputation, and will probably bring back to the State some of the noted initiates of Phi Beta Kappa now living elsewhere. Among them will be Dr. Thomas

GREAT STRIDES OF THE PRUDENTIAL.

The claim of The Prudential Insurance Company of America that it "Has the Strength of Gibraltar" is amply justified by the figures shown in its annual statement, just published. From these figures it appears that no less a sum than \$25,000,000 of paid-for life insurance was written during the year 1903, bringing the total amount of paid-for life insurance in force up to the astonishing sum of \$23,000,000. The number of policies in force is over five million, or in other words, it may be stated that more than one million families enjoy the benefits of life insurance protection through The Prudential. There is a surplus of more than \$10,000,000 available, to be drawn upon if necessary, and Prudential policyholders are to be congratulated upon the strength and prosperity of the institution in which they have invested their savings. Write to the Home Office of the Company, Newark, N. J., for information concerning its policies, which furnish guaranteed protection to the family as well as dividends to the policyholders.